

11
DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR 1969

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector
(Mr. G.S. Sennitt, F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., A.R.S.H.)

Dr. J. Mc.D. Hanley, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.

DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Offices: Priory Road, Downham Market.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE:-

Chairman: Mr. G.E. Garfoot
Vice-Chairman: Mr. J.W. Kellingray

Mr. Wm.H. Bentley	Mr. J.D.E. Lane
Mrs. M.E. Bliss	Mrs. E.M. Neville
Mr. A.J. Blott	Mr. J. Nourse
Mr. G.J. Caley	Mr. R.H. Payne
Mr. W.A. Carley	Miss G. Peat
Mr. A.K. Dewing	Mr. E.R.M. Pratt
Mr. A. Fox	Mr. H.G. Teverson, (Died 22.2.70)
Mr. A.J. Hawkins	Mr. J.W. Turrell
Mr. A. Hipperson	Mr. J.R. Waterfall
Mr. F.W. Hyam	Mr. R.R. Wilde

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health:-

DR. J. McD. Hanley, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.
Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.
Tel. Downham Market 3241.

also holds appointments of:-

County Departmental Medical Officer
School Medical Officer.
Medical Officer of Health, Downham Market Urban District Council.
Medical Officer of Health, Marshland Rural District Council.
Medical Officer of Health, King's Lynn Borough Council.
Medical Officer of Health, Freebridge Lynn Rural District Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector:-

G.S. SENNITT, F.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., A.R.S.H.
Tel. Downham Market 3287. Residence D.M. 3364.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:-

J.G.W. HURST, CERT. S.I.B.
K. STEELE, M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector:-

T.S. HUGGINS.

Clerk to the Health Department:-

MISS S. COX.

DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Council I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1969.

As a result of the death of the Medical Officer of Health for King's Lynn and Freebridge R.D.C., Dr. C.T. Jones, in January, Norfolk County Council re-organised the administrative arrangements for our area and I was appointed M.O.H. for King's Lynn and Freebridge R.D.C. in addition to my other appointments.

Vital Statistics and Vaccination Statistics

I think these are satisfactory. There is no sign of any health hazard in our area.

Measles Vaccination

You will notice that 468 children were vaccinated, but this is only a modest portion of those entitled to this protection. Unfortunately, one particular preparation of the vaccine gave rise to alarming reactions and the Department of Health and Social Security forbade all vaccinations with this type of vaccine until safety could be assured.

As a result our campaign for measles vaccination had to be curtailed until sufficient supplies of safe vaccine would be obtained. I hope that we may be able to give complete protection to all our children next year.

B.C.G. Vaccination

Again showed that there was no source of infection here.

Health Education continues to be an important part of our duties. Mothercraft, self-examination, cancer education, anti-smoking information, diet, mental health, the school health service and county health services are the recurring topics we are asked about.

Finally, I would like to record my appreciation for the assistance and support I have had during the year from the Clerk, Public Health Inspectors and members of the Local Health Office Staff.

J. McD. HANLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

Live Births	419
Rate per 1,000 population	16.6
Ditto for Administrative County	16.3
Ditto for England and Wales	16.3
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	4
Deaths (all causes)	233
Rate per 1,000 population	10.5
Ditto for Administrative County	10.1
Ditto for England and Wales	11.9
Still Births	7
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	16
Ditto for Administrative County	13
Ditto for England and Wales	13
Total Live and Still Births	426
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	4
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births	10
Ditto for Administrative County	16
Ditto for England and Wales	18
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Births	10
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	NIL
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births)	7
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total Live Births)	7
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Still Births and Deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births)	23
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	NIL

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1969

Number of Parishes	33
Area (in acres)	124,152
Population, 1931 (Census)	19,962
Population, 1961 (Census)	23,655
Estimated Population, 1969	25,780
Estimated number of separate Dwellings occupied, 1969	7,302
Estimated Rateable Value at 1st April, 1969	655,430
Product of a Penny Rate, 1969-70	2,639

Section B

1. County Medical Services

(a) District Nurses

This year's report does not include names of Nurses showing Parishes and Villages served. There are quite obviously changes throughout the year and current information will be readily supplied by the Local Health Office (Tele. Downham Market 3241 & 2).

(b) Health Visitors

This service is at present undergoing changes with Health Visitors on attachment to General Practitioners. Until the whole structure has become stabilized it is obviously impracticable to give detailed information. Again this will be supplied on request to the Local Health Office.

(c) Ambulance and Hospital Car Services

All Ambulances are now under overall supervision by the Ambulance Control Centre, County Hall, Norwich.

The Area is covered by the Ambulance Sub-Control Centre, Wellesley Street, King's Lynn. Telephone King's Lynn 4686 and Emergency King's Lynn 4298/9.

Infectious Diseases cases are conveyed by King's Lynn or Norwich Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Ambulance Sub-Control Centre, Wellesley Street, King's Lynn (Telephone King's Lynn 3503 and 3910).

(d) Child Health Clinics

- (i) Downham Market - 2nd Thursday of each month 2.p.m. - 4.p.m.
- (ii) Wimbotsham - 1st Thursday of each month 2.p.m. - 4.p.m.
- (iii) R.A.F. Marham - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month 2.p.m. - 4.p.m.

A Medical Officer is in attendance at the above Sessions.

In addition Weighing Clinics are held monthly at the following villages - Methwold, Northwold, Southery, Shouldham, Wereham, Feltwell and Watlington.

(e) Home Help Service

Applications for Home Help assistance should be made to the Local Health Office, Downham Market. This service is expanding steadily and at the present time 55 Home Helps are working within my Local Health Area.

(f) Vaccination and Immunisation

Shown below are figures for immunisations carried out by general practitioners and medical staff in my Local Health Area during 1969. This area also embraces Downham Urban and Marshland Rural Districts.

Smallpox Vaccination

Primary vaccination		total	revaccination		Total
<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5 - 15</u>		<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5 - 15</u>	
231	10	241	5	11	16

Tetanus

Primary courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 8	8 - 15		Under 8	8 - 15	
407	13	420	769	595	1364

Whooping Cough

Primary courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 8	8 - 15		Under 8	8 - 15	
354	Nil	354	246	3	249

Diphtheria

Primary Courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 8	8 - 15		Under 8	8 - 15	
403	1	404	752	258	1010

Poliomyelitis

Primary courses		Total	Reinforcing Doses		Total
Under 8	8 - 15		Under 8	8 - 15	
383	4	387	589	345	934

B.C.G. Vaccination

Number given the preliminary skin test	Number vaccinated	Number referred for Chest X-ray
408	363	-

Measles Vaccination

Under 8	8 - 15	Total
227	241	468

2. General Medical Services

Norfolk Executive Council, Horse Fair House, 17, St. Faith's Lane, Norwich. Clerk F.H. Adams, Esq.

3. Venereal Disease Clinic

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

Males: Tuesday 5.30 p.m. Friday 4.30 p.m.

Females and Children: Tuesday 3 p.m. Friday 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

4. Disinfection and Disinfestation

Treatment of premises and articles is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

5.

Laboratory Services

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.
Under the direction of Dr. I.M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst, Dr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S.,
F.R.I.C., Clarence House, 6, Clarence Road, Norwich.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

SECTION C
STATISTICAL TABLES, 1969

Causes of Death

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	1	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	-	9
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	4	-	4
Other Malignant Neoplasms	7	5	12
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	2	3
Anaemias	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, Etc.	-	2	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	-	2
Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	32	24	56
Other Forms of Heart Disease	7	9	16
Cerebrovascular Disease	16	19	35
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	9	13
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	7	9	16
Bronchitis and Emphysema	16	-	16
Asthma	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	-	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	2	2
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	3	5
All Other Accidents	3	1	4
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	-	2
All Other External Causes	1	-	1
<hr/>			
Total All Causes	134	99	233

Table No. 2.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1969
Notification in Age Groups

	AGES													TOTAL	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Age Un- known			
MEASLES	2	10	17	13	17	54	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	118	-	-
SCARLET FEVER	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-
ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
INFECTIVE JAUNDICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-
DYSENTERY	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	27	-	-
TOTALS	2	10	19	13	18	56	4	4	-	1	1	-	28	156	-	-

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM, DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, MENINGITIS.
No cases recorded.

Table No. 3.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1969
(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
MEASLES	29	26	25	7	-	-	25	1	1	-	2	2	118
SCARLET FEVER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	5
ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
INFECTIVE JAUNDICE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	27
DYSENTERY	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTALS	32	26	25	7	-	-	52	1	1	4	5	3	156

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM, MENINGITIS, DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH.
No cases recorded.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS - 1969

1 Male age 37 - Respiratory.
1 Female age 53 - Non-Pulmonary.
There were no deaths from the disease.

Section D

Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A report of the work of the Council in the sphere of environmental health during 1969 follows.

Mr. Hurst carried out routine work in the northern part of the District and Mr. Steele the southern. Mr. T. Huggins commenced service as a student inspector on 1st April, and he embarked on a three year sandwich course at the South East London Technical College in the Autumn. His first year was to be a very intensive one, after which he would sit for the intermediate examination (in June, 1970). This placed particular responsibility on all concerned, but the help of the Public Health Inspectors at King's Lynn and Norwich deserves special mention.

Without doubt the major environmental concern of the Council was again the smell nuisance from the Fertiliser/Animal Feed Factory at Methwold which had persisted since October, 1966. Complaints were received continually throughout the year, and the patience of everyone concerned with this seemingly intractable problem was sorely tried!

The Council's agreement in November to a further period of test at the factory, however, reflected a feeling that a solution to the problem must be in the national interest, but undoubtedly there was a considerable difference of opinion on this point.

Many scientific and economic advances bring problems with the environment, and considerable unease among all sections of society has intensified recently due to accidents and unforeseen effects. One of the main results has been the declaration of the year 1970 as "European Conservation Year" and this surely must be the year in which mankind begins more seriously and continuously to measure up long term ecological effects against short term gains.

The Redcliffe-Maud Report on the re-organisation of Local Government was published during the year, and this started a tremendous dialogue on what amounts to be the most efficient way to manage and secure the quality of the environment for this and future generations. The decisions must be the right ones!

I am indebted to the Council and my colleagues for continued support and co-operation.

Summary of Visits

Water Supply	29
Drainage	648
Refuse Collection and Disposal	418
Rodent Control	36
Atmospheric Pollution	55
Petroleum	44
Moveable Dwellings	115
Factories	9
Housing	1559
Piggeries	13
Street Naming and Numbering	41
Animal Boarding Establishments	3
Shops and Offices Act	45
Schools	1
Infectious Disease	8
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	352
Fried Fish Shops	17
Miscellaneous Food	12
Ice Cream Premises	5
Grocers	33
Restaurants	7
Slaughterhouses	19
Meat Inspection	488
Butchers	23
Licensed Premises	6
Noise Abatement	5
Hairdressers and Barbers Shops	1
Abandoned Vehicles	36
Bakers and Confectioners	5
Canteens	4
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	2
Total:	<u>4049</u>

1965 - 4587 1966 - 5397 1967 - 4584 1968 - 4688

It should be noted that only the primary purpose of each visit is recorded to give the monthly and annual Report statistics. Enquiry is often made on matters covered by several Acts of Parliament at one premises.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

378 complaints were entered in the Register, investigated and dealt with (207 in 1966, 346 in 1967, 401 in 1968).

191 separate complaints related to the smell arising from the organic fertiliser/animal feeding stuffs factory at Methwold Hythe, and in many cases one complaint covered complaints made by many people. Your staff had to devote a vast amount of time to this matter, and in particular towards the preparation of the Council's case which was expected to be heard in the High Court. An additional enquiry officer was engaged for several weeks to interview complainants.

The case was expected to be heard in November, but at the beginning of the month approached were made, and as a result a settlement was reached. The firm concerned agreed to submit to an injunction, the operation of which would be suspended until 30th June, 1970, with a right to apply to the Court on or before 30th June for an Order that the injunction be removed or, upon reasonable grounds being shown that the suspension period be extended beyond 30th June, 1970. The firm was to pay the Council's costs.

As a result of certain tests with a new form of afterburner, the firm felt that they were on the verge of breakthrough, and the smell would be cured.

Complaints continued to the end of the year.

NOTICES SERVED OTHER THAN UNDER HOUSING ACTS

	Informal (Letters)	Statutory	Complied with	Complied with Notices served during previous years
Housing Repairs	19	1	10	14
Drainage and Sanitation	20	-	8	6
Food Premises	4	-	2	7
Miscellaneous	24	-	8	13
Moveable Dwellings	3	1	2	4
Totals	70	2	30	44

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

(a) General

Inspections were frequently made in conjunction with those under the Offices, Shops, etc., Act.

The conditions to be observed are specified in the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960 and the Council's Clean Food Byelaws. Most of the shops in the area are attached to dwelling houses, and staff are allowed the use of the facilities at the house. As far as is known, all shops are provided with sinks and washbasins, and either cold water or hot and cold water as required.

The County Council's staff made 40 inspections of school canteens at 15 schools in the area, and conditions were considered satisfactory.

At 31st December, there were operating from within the District:-

- 8 Fish and Chip Shops (including 2 mobile units)
- 2 Bakehouses
- 16 Butchers Shops
- 4 Licensed Slaughterhouses
- 7 Cafes
- 52 Licensed Houses including 6 clubs
- 94 General Food Shops
- 4 Shops selling sweets and lemonade including 1 club
- 2 Factory Canteens
- 1 Chemist
- 5 Mobile General Shops
- 1 Flour Depot
- 1 Bread and Confectionery Distribution Depot

(b) Ice-cream

3 new premises were registered, and 106 premises were selling ice-cream including fruit ices, all of it being prepared and pre-packed by the large companies. No manufacture of ice-cream is carried on in the District.

(c) Slaughterhouses

Four private slaughterhouses were licensed and in use during the year, one each in the parishes of Stoke Ferry, Feltwell, Methwold and Stow Bridge.

The Feltwell premises came under new ownership.

Continual inspections are made by the Department and occasionally by a Ministry Veterinary Officer. Conditions were generally satisfactory.

(d) Slaughtermen

At 31st December, there were 16 (22 in 1968) licensed slaughtermen in the District.

(e) Meat Inspection

100% post mortem inspection of beef, mutton and pig carcasses was carried out, with occasional ante-mortem inspections.

100% inspection by qualified personnel to a detailed code is now a legal requirement. The Council is authorised to make a charge for Meat Inspection Services, but no charge is made. In addition, no control on the hours of slaughter in the District has been imposed.

Only prime animals are slaughtered in this District. The incidence of disease found in larger slaughterhouses receiving cows and other animals, including emergency slaughter cases is, of course, very much higher.

New strengthened Meat Sterilisation Regulations came into operation on 1st November, and the Slaughter of Poultry Act was due to operate from 1st January, 1970. This Act provided for the more humane slaughter of turkeys and domestic fowls. There were no large scale poultry slaughtering premises in the District at the end of the year and no premises where the process of "stunning before slaughter" was carried out.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	781	-	-	1227	1261	-
Number inspected	781	-	-	1227	1261	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	53	-	-	3	83	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.8%	-	-	0.24%	6.6%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	21	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.6%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Condemned Meat (Weight)

	lbs.
Beasts	
Head and Offal	737
Carcase Meat	-
Pigs	
Head and Offal	629
Carcase Meat	-
Sheep	
Offal	14
Carcase Meat	-
Total	<u>1380</u>

(f) Condemned Food

In addition to the fresh meat above, the following foods were condemned:-

120 lbs frozen food
15 lbs ham
10 lbs lambs liver
6 lbs corned beef

(g) Registration of Premises for the Preparation of Sausages, etc.

15 Butchers' premises were registered throughout the year, and it was not necessary to take any formal action.

(h) Food Contamination

One complaint was received during the year. This related to a slug in a bottle of milk. In spite of extensive investigations, it was not possible to say when the slug gained access. No formal action was considered necessary. A close watch is being kept on the composition of food by the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and regular reports are supplied to the Department.

(i) Milk and Dairies

This Council is responsible for the Registration of milk distributors based within the district only, and also of any premises used by them for the treatment, storage and distribution of milk. In all cases, milk is supplied from the large dairies, and the containers are unopened by the distributor.

7 Distributors are registered and 3 dairies.

Tests of milk from this Council's district taken by the County Council's staff in 1969 gave the following results:-

Biological Sampling

A total of thirty-five samples was submitted from the three producer/retailers in the district in the course of routine sampling. Of these, thirty-two proved negative and in the remaining three cases the premature deaths of the guinea pigs rendered the examinations inconclusive.

Methylene Blue Examinations (raw milk)

Only one sample was submitted for this test and proved satisfactory.

Methylene Blue Examinations (Pasteurised Milk)

Of the twenty-seven samples submitted for this test, fourteen proved satisfactory and thirteen were rendered void due to the overnight temperature at the laboratory exceeding 70°F.

Phosphatase Examination (Pasteurised Milk)

Twenty-seven samples were submitted for this examination and all proved satisfactory.

Turbidity Test (Sterilised Milk)

Four samples were submitted for this test and all proved satisfactory.

Colony County (Ultra Heat Treated Milk)

Only two samples were submitted and both were satisfactory.

School Milk

Twenty-nine samples of school milk were submitted for testing, all satisfied the phosphatase test, fifteen satisfied the methylene blue test with fourteen rendered void.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive trades within the meaning of the Public Health Act, 1936, operating in the District. Manure drying is not an offensive trade, neither is it scheduled under the Alkali Works Act. The law does require strengthening in my opinion.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The District had the highest number of fully residential caravans in the County, according to a survey carried out during the first week in August - 204 which was 13 more than in 1968 but less than 1966.

The relatively few holiday caravans were mainly occupied by fishermen for short periods. Tents are often erected on river banks for short periods, but there are no permanent tented sites.

9 site licences including renewals covering 13 caravans were issued during the year. Many occupied caravans were exempt from licencing, but a certain amount of trouble was experienced due to unauthorised sites being used.

In particular, a caravan parked and occupied on a public road verge at West Dereham by a local man was frequently discussed in Council. The law did not appear to be adequate to secure a satisfactory solution, and the difficulty of ratepayers in understanding such an anomaly can be well understood. A means to deal with the situation was still being sought at the end of the year.

The Council's licence conditions are comprehensive, one set applying to sites of up to 5 caravans, and a more comprehensive set applying on sites above this number.

The largest sites are situated as follows:-

Marham	- 2 sites, one for 52 and one for 10 caravans.
Feltwell	- 42 caravans.
Shouldham	- 2 sites, one for 11 and one for 5 caravans.
Wereham	- Contractor's site. Not licensed. About 15 caravans.

The licensed sites are generally clean and tidy, but inspections show that conditions are not always observed, particularly in regard to fire precautions. The importance of this aspect is always emphasised.

The Caravan Sites Act, 1968, Part 2 which requires County Councils to provide sites for Gypsies and similar persons if circumstances warrant it was still not in force, but it was expected to be early in 1970.

HOUSING

(a) Housing Acts and Council Housing

33 Council Houses were completed during the year and at the end of the year 37 dwellings were in the course of construction including the Hilgay Grouped Homes scheme of 16 flats and warden's quarters. The following were programmed:-

Barton Bendish	-	8	Stoke Ferry	-	20
Marham	-	4	Northwold	-	19
Wereham	-	3	Methwold	-	6
West Dereham	-	6	Feltwell	-	18
Wiggenhall St. Mary			Watlington	-	18
Magdalen	-	6			
Denver	-	12			

Whilst intimation was received during the year that the building of dwellings for general needs could be resumed, the Council continued to give priority to the needs of aged persons and families from unfit houses.

The clearance of unfit houses continued, 20 families being rehoused as against 23 for 1968 and 8 for 1967. The results of action taken are recorded for each Parish in a table following.

The clearance and redevelopment of the central area of Hilgay were discussed during the year. The Council decided to acquire land to the East of the A.10 trunk road, and architects were instructed to prepare plans.

3 Discretionary Grants were approved and 62 Standard Grants, figures for previous years being:-

1962	-	22 and 40	1964	-	11 and 39	1966	-	12 and 56
1963	-	10 and 41	1965	-	18 and 56	1967	-	8 and 80
						1968	-	4 and 76

The Housing Act, 1969 came into effect on 25th August, and in particular laid a duty on local authorities to cause inspections to be made from time to time with a view to dealing with a wide range of unsatisfactory conditions in older houses and their areas.

Authorities were urged to do more year by year to see that houses were repaired and improved where possible and to get rid of the really bad ones. To assist in the task, the law was amended to:-

1) Allow private landlords to charge a new 'regulated' rent where houses were improved to higher standards and in good repair on the Certificate of the local authority. The rent to be determined under the Rent Act, 1968 and phased.

2) Modify the existing slum clearance code so as to give extra payments to tenants and landlords affected in certain circumstances, to add "internal arrangement" to the items to be taken into account in determining whether a house is unfit and to delete 'food storage facilities' from such consideration.

3) Set out a new and self contained code for the grant aided improvement and conversion of houses and provide additional powers to secure the repair of houses.

Discretionary Grants of up to £1,000 (£1,200 for conversions) could now be given for works giving a high all-round level of improvement, conversion and repair of properties with a good life ahead of them. The previous normal limit had been £400.

In the case of Standard Grants, the maximum which could be paid was raised from £350 to £450 and part grants could in future be paid in certain circumstances. Special grants for the provision of basic amenities in houses in multiple occupation were also payable.

(4) Provide local authorities with a coherent and comprehensive code for the improvement of predominantly residential areas, that is: 'whole areas - the houses and the environment'. Works of 'environmental improvement' would attract a new specific grant, and up to £100 per house might be allowed as approved expenditure by local authorities for this purpose.

Summarising, the Act gives local authorities very wide and flexible powers to tackle and improve poor housing and environmental conditions, but only an improved and stable financial situation will really induce significant numbers of people to enthusiastically commit large amounts of capital and borrowed money towards the improvement of houses in a meaningful period of time, such as ten years.

In this district, there are fortunately no relatively large areas of unfit property remaining due to the energetic policy pursued by the Council in the last 15 years, but there are still large numbers of individual houses requiring repair and modernisation.

In December, the Council decided to purchase a terrace of six well-built cottages at Fincham with a view to modernisation.

(b) Rent Act, 1957

1 application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair and a part certificate was issued. No applications for cancellation of existing Certificates were received.

(c) Waiting List

On 30th May, 1969, there were 862 individual applications for accommodation registered as against 498 in 1963 and 301 in 1955 and 666 in January, 1968.

85 applications, however, related to transfers by the Council house tenants to larger or smaller accommodation. 125 applications were from people living outside the District.

The Parishes of Hilgay, Wimbotsham and Denver had most applications in that order (79, 77 and 72).

(d) Summary of Council Dwellings at 31st December, 1969

Traditional Houses

(a)	Pre-war.....	420
(b)	Post-war	1095

Other Properties

Downham Market	3
Stoke Ferry	3
Nordelph	2
Barton Bendish	6 (2 unoccupied)
Methwold	8 (6 flats and 2 houses)
Wretton	1
Crimplesham	1

Total: 1539

(e) Private Enterprise Housing

90 permanent houses and bungalows were completed during the year and 135 were under construction. Figures for 1964-121 and 60, 1965-117 and 149, 1966-116 and 76, 1967-117 and 177, 1968-154 and 129.

HOUSING ACT ACTION

(f)

1st January to 31st December, 1969

	Demolition Orders made	Closing Orders made	Unfit Dwellings Vol. Demolished	Unfit Dwellings Demolished Formal action	Unfit Dwellings repaired Formal action	Unfit Dwellings purchased	Cat. 5 Dwellings still to be dealt with	Est. Cat. 3 Dwellings considered to be unfit
Barton Bendish.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5
Boughton.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	5
Crimplesham.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7
Denver.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	7	17
Dereham West.....	-	1	-	1	1	-	6	5
Downham West incl. Salters Lode.....	1	2	-	-	1	-	6	6
Feltwell.....	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	30
Fincham.....	2	-	-	-	4	-	8	16
Fordham.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Hilgay inc. Ten Mile Bank.....	3	5	-	4	-	-	16	35
Hockwold.....	1	-	-	-	1	-	4	25
Marham.....	3	-	-	-	-	-	14	14
Methwold.....	4	1	-	-	-	-	4	40
Nordelph.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	20
Northwold.....	5	3	-	-	-	-	15	25
Runcton Holme.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	10
Ryston incl. Stone.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Shouldham.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	10
Shouldham Thorpe.....	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	6
Southery.....	-	2	-	3	-	-	8	26
Stoke Ferry.....	6	3	-	-	1	-	15	20
Stow Bardolph.....	2	4	-	2	-	-	16	25
Stradsett.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Tottenham.....	2	-	-	-	1	-	5	6
Watlington.....	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	23
Welney.....	1	-	-	1	-	-	6	15
Wereham.....	3	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Wiggenhall St. Germans.....	6	-	-	-	-	-	5	21
Wigg. St. Mary Magdalen....	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	27
Wigg. St. Mary the Virgin .	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	8
Wimbotsham.....	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	17
Wormegay.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6
Wretton.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	8
Totals:	45	25	-	17	11	-	201	499

Figures for 1968	41	24	4	36	14	-	237	537
- do - 1967	23	23	-	19	6	-	214	561
- do - 1966	41	13	3	43	13	-	221	-
- do - 1962	29	37	7	26	6	-	220	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The 'kerbside' collection once a fortnight was continued throughout the District.

In February a comprehensive report on public cleansing was considered by the Council, and some important decisions were made. A weekly 'kerbside' collection would be instituted when the financial climate improved and the Department was authorised to arrange special collections of bulky refuse if the need arose.

New sites for refuse disposal were to be sought with the assistance of the Planning Authority, and the dumping of old vehicles or vehicle parts on tips was prohibited. Trade refuse from properties situated within the District would continue to be received free of charge by arrangement.

The purchase of a 'Bray 540' all-wheel drive tractor shovel was authorised for tip control work, and it was put into service on 9th May. The capability of the Department to deal with adverse conditions was dramatically improved by this equipment. In addition, a Dennis 'Paxit' IIIC Continuous Loading collection vehicle of 35/50 cubic yards capacity was to be ordered and this was commissioned on 3rd June.

The collection rounds were completely altered so as to make full use of this vehicle.

Partly controlled tipping of refuse was practiced at tips situated at Ten Mile Bank, Wormegay, Fincham and Northwold, and the usual troubles were experienced with tip fires. The fires were mainly started by persons unknown.

Two depots for the receipt of old cars, one at Wereham and the other at Methwold were used by agreement with the owners. Several vehicles were collected at no cost to the Council after informal action.

Very few complaints were made about refuse collection by the public, which is due to the cheerful and valuable service given by the collection crews. There were, of course, many requests for a once-weekly service.

(b) Pail emptying

Pails were emptied once weekly during the daytime in the Parishes of Hilgay, Downham West and Fincham, the Council's cesspool emptier being utilised. The service at Denver was discontinued on February 1st 1968.

Most of the pail contents were disposed of on straw composting bays, and the rest was applied direct to arable land.

(c) Cesspool emptying

The Council's 1,000 gallon cesspool emptying vehicle continued in service and was available two days a week for the emptying of cesspools and the desludging of the Council's smaller sewage treatment plants.

There was again an increase in the number of units serviced as a result of the provision of bathrooms and w.c.'s in unsewered areas.

No. of cesspools emptied:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Purle Waste Disposal Ltd.</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Egmore</u>	<u>Total</u>
1960	230	408	-	638
1962	607	289	-	896
1964	783	257	-	1040
1966	1013	325	-	1356
1968	1169	484	58	1732
1969	574	295	1197	2066
<u>Sewage Plants and Special Tanks Emptied</u>				
1960	-	93	-	93
1962	1	76	-	77
1964	-	69	-	69
1966	-	114	-	114
1968	-	79	-	79
1969	-	104	2	106

A flat rate charge of 12/6 is made for emptying private cesspools but at Council Houses no charge is made, a special addition being made to rents to cover the service.

It will be seen that two contractors carry out the bulk of cesspool emptying work, which is heavily subsidised to even out sewage disposal costs to ratepayers.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main sewage treatment plants at Southery, Feltwell, Fordham and Barton Bendish and housing site plants were maintained by your Surveyor's Department throughout the year. Difficulties due to severe frosts and minor troubles were experienced, but generally satisfactory reports were received from the River Authority. Apart from house connections, the Barton Bendish plant was completed and put into operation in May. Also, the Council's two sites at Salters Lode were sewered and provided with an extended aeration sewage treatment plant. The septic tanks replaced had been particularly troublesome over many years.

The laboratory at Attleborough for the examination of sewage works' effluent was set up by the County Council in conjunction with 10 District Councils during the year. This arrangement proved very valuable, and random samples from works were sent at regular intervals.

The County Council's Public Health Engineering Department continued the preparatory work on the main sewerage schemes for the No. 5 area - Watlington/Runcton/Wiggenhalls and the No. 6 area - Wereham/Boughton/Crimpleham/Stoke Ferry/Northwold/Methwold. The Parish of Crimpleham was added during the year to the No. 6 area on technical grounds and it was also decided that the treatment plant for this area should be sited on the north bank of the cut-off channel between Stoke Ferry and Methwold.

After a visit by a Ministry Inspector to the No. 5 sewerage area, the Council agreed that the scheme should be carried out as follows:-

Phase 1 - Sewerage of Runcton and Watlington plus the works.

Phase 2 - Sewerage of Magdalen, St. Germans and St. Mary's in that order.

The need for main drainage in the area is more acute year by year, and the difficulties of trying to make septic tanks work in almost impossible conditions must again be stressed. A particularly troublesome problem was the cesspool serving a factory at Stoke Ferry. A drainage scheme to cure the problem was agreed upon during the year.

The previous arrangement made with the Downham Urban District Council for sewage from the parishes of Wimbotsham, Downham West, Stow Bardolph and Nordelph eventually to go to an enlarged and improved Downham Market Works was considered during the year.

The County Public Health Engineer considered that, in view of the difficulty of drying and disposing of sludge in open drying beds in this county, the provision of a mechanical sludge drying plant at the Downham works would be prudent, and this proposal was subsequently accepted.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Close supervision is maintained in regard to the maintenance of safe conditions at Petrol Filling Stations, both public and private, in the District. 140 premises were licenced, including 46 licenced to sell retail.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 50.

Two burials were carried out by the Council during the year.

THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957

Administration of this Order is delegated to the Council by the County Council. Only 1 person was collecting swill as far as is known. Proper sterilisation of this swill is highly important in preventing the spread of animal disease.

OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL, WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD, DOWNHAM MARKET

There were no complaints of smell or eye irritation etc., arising from the normal use of the pool during the season and generally the water was maintained in a clear and sparkling condition. Small quantities of an algicidal/bactericidal compound were added at long intervals, and no algal troubles were experienced. Gaseous chlorine is used for sterilisation and soda ash is also injected to counteract acidity. Other disinfectants are used regularly in the changing rooms, pool surrounds etc.

THE ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

This Act requires any person keeping a boarding establishment for cats or dogs to obtain a licence from the Local Authority. The Licence must specify such conditions as will ensure hygienic conditions, adequate supplies of food and drink and protection against fire or other emergency.

Three establishments (at Methwold, Stoke Ferry and Runcton Holme) were licenced during the year. Licences expire at the end of the year to which they relate.

THE SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

All dealers trading in the District and their premises have to be registered with the Council, and registration is for periods of up to three years.

At the end of the year there were 12 registrations in force.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in shops, offices and railway premises. The requirements of the Act follows closely those of the Factories Act and include provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, seats, safety of machinery, first aid and fire precautions.

By reason of the diverse business activities carried on in this district, a large number of premises come under the supervision of the Factories Inspector. In addition, many businesses are outside control because they are family affairs. The domestic facilities at adjoining houses are usually at the disposal of shopworkers.

45 visits were made under the Act.

TABLE A REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS	(1) Class of premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year.	(3) Total Number of registered premises at end of year.	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general in- spection during the year.
	Offices	-	7	1
	Retail Shops	-	51	21
	Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	3	1
	Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	1	1
	Fuel Storage depots	-	5	-
	TOTALS	-	67	24

TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE	Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
	(1)	(2)
	Offices	14
	Retail Shops	108
	Wholesale departments, warehouses	15
	Catering establishments open to the public	9
	Canteens	-
	Fuel Storage Depots	6
	TOTAL	152
	Total Males	57
	Total Females	95

The response to letters requiring compliance with various provisions of the Act was good, and it was not necessary to recommend any formal action.

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Main Piped Supplies General

The District is well served by water mains, and the number of properties not able to have mains water is now very low. Quite a large number, however, are supplied by standpipes, and many terraces have joint standpipes. The policy of the Council is to require water to be provided in pipes inside the house whenever reasonable and practicable.

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for three sources of supply to the Rural District viz., the northern half from the River Nar and bore at Marham and the southern half from the bores at Denton Lodge, Feltwell, and Beechamwell.

I am indebted to the Board's Engineer and Manager, Mr. C. Llanwarne, B.Sc. Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:-

Water Analyses 1969 - Rural District of Downham

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1969 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

There were no cases of contamination of the water supply in Downham Rural District during 1969.

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Water Analyses 1969 - Rural District of Downham

SUMMARY OF EXAMINATIONS AND ANALYSES

<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>Bacteriological Examinations</u>			<u>Chemical Analyses</u>
<u>Board's Works</u>	No. of Tests Taken	No. of Tests Negative	No. of Tests Positive	
Raw Waters	300	291	9	
Treated Waters	795	795	0	
Taps (Consumers)	157	157	0	
Totals	1,252	1,243	9	183

Total of all examinations and analyses = 1,435

Out of the total of treated water samples and samples taken from consumers' taps 100% were negative on examination for organisms of the coliform group. This represents a continued very high standard of bacterial purity.

J.S. COLLINS,
Chemist and Bacteriologist.

27th February, 1970.

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

WATER EXAMINATION LABORATORY

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 1.15 p.m. 24th November, 1969

Lab. No. Q. 1659

From Marham 18" main (Marham Mixed Treated Water)

Labelled Marham 18" Main

Taken by J.S. Collins

Date and Time 24/11/69 11.30 a.m.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance Clear and Bright

pH. 7.2

Turbidity (units) Nil

Odour Nil

Colour (Hazen units) Nil

Taste Nil

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Free carbon dioxide 25.3

Aluminium (Al) Nil

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C 0.40

Calcium (Ca) 107.5

Ammoniacal nitrogen Nil

Iron (Fe) 0.005

Albuminoid nitrogen 0.03

Magnesium (Mg) Not examined

Nitrate nitrogen 7.2

Manganese (Mn) Nil

Nitrite nitrogen Nil

Lead (Pb) Nil

Alkalinity as CaCO₃ 212.5

Sodium (Na) Not examined

Hardness as CaCO₃:

Zinc (Zn) Nil

Total 280

Silica (SiO₂) 7.0

Carbonate (temporary) 212.5

Sulphate(SO₄) Not examined

Non-carbonate (permanent) 67.5

Carbonate (CO₃) 127.5

Residual chlorine 0.70

Chloride (Cl) 31.5

Not

Total solids, dried at 180°C examined

Fluoride (F) 0.02

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 24 hours at 37°C 0

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 72 hours at 20° - 22°C 0

Coliform count per 100 ml. 0

Bact. coli I count per 100 ml. 0

REPORT The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character. It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

Date: 27th February, 1970.

J.S. Collins

Chemist and Bacteriologist

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

WATER EXAMINATION LABORATORY

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 12.40 p.m. 8th December, 1969.

Lab. No. Q. 1725

From Denton Lodge Pumping Station

Labelled Denton Lodge Raw Water

Taken by B. Peters

Date and Time 8/12/69 11.30 a.m.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance Clear and Bright

pH. 7.2

Turbidity (units) Nil

Odour Nil

Colour (Hazen units) Nil

Taste ---

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Free carbon dioxide 16.5

Aluminium (Al) Nil

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C 0.08

Calcium (Ca) 70

Ammoniacal nitrogen Nil

Iron (Fe) Faint Trace

Albuminoid nitrogen Nil

Magnesium (Mg) Not examined

Nitrate nitrogen 4.0

Manganese (Mn) Nil

Nitrite nitrogen Nil

Lead (Pb) Nil

Alkalinity as CaCO₃ 165

Sodium (Na) Not examined

Hardness as CaCO₃:

Zinc (Zn) Nil

Total 184

Silica (SiO₂) 8.0

Carbonate (temporary) 165

Sulphate (SO₄) Not examined

Non-carbonate (permanent) 19

Carbonate (CO₃) 99.0

Residual chlorine ---

Chloride (Cl) 14.5

Total solids, dried at 180°C not examined

Fluoride (F) 0.03

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 24 hours at 37°C 0

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 72 hours at 20° - 22°C 0

Coliform count per 100 ml. 0

Bact. coli I count per 100 ml. 0

REPORT

The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character.
It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public
supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

Date: 27th February, 1970

J.S. Collins

Chemist and Bacteriologist

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

WATER EXAMINATION LABORATORY

ANALYSIS OF WATER SAMPLE

Received 1-15 p.m. 29th December, 1969

Lab. No. Q. 1815

From Beechamwell Pumping Station

Labelled Beechamwell Chlorinated Supply

Taken by J. S. Collins

Date and Time 29/12/69 11.15 a.m.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance	Clear and Bright	pH.	7.2
Turbidity (units)	Nil	Odour	Nil
Colour (Hazen units)	Nil	Taste	Nil

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Free carbon dioxide	29.7	Aluminium (Al)	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.15	Calcium (Ca)	105
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil	Iron (Fe)	Faint Trace
Albuminoid nitrogen	Nil	Magnesium (Mg)	Not examined
Nitrate nitrogen	10.0	Manganese (Mn)	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil	Lead (Pb)	Nil
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	210	Sodium (Na)	Not examined
Hardness as CaCO ₃ :		Zinc (Zn)	Nil
Total	272	Silica (SiO ₂)	7.0
Carbonate (temporary)	210	Sulphate (SO ₄)	Not examined
Non-carbonate (permanent)	62	Carbonate (CO ₃)	126
Residual chlorine	0.55	Chloride (Cl)	26
	Not	Fluoride (F)	Nil
Total solids, dried at 180°C	examined		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 24 hours at 37°C 0

Number of bacteria growing on agar per ml. in 72 hours at 20° - 22°C 10

Coliform count per 100 ml. 0

Bact. coli I count per 100 ml. 0

REPORT The above results indicate a water pure and wholesome in character. It is suitable both chemically and bacteriologically as a public supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

J.S. Collins,
Chemist and Bacteriologist

Date: 27th February, 1970.

(b) Small Water Supplies

Six samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year. Two were unsatisfactory, being river water supplies which were being considered for vegetable washing for one firm. Arrangements were being made for chlorination of one supply. Advice and assistance was given to several more people in matters concerning such supplies.

One sample of well water used for infant feeding was sampled for nitrate content during the year by the County Public Health Department, and it was found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Particulars on the Administration of the Act.

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	77	9	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). (These are building sites).	67	14	-	-
Totals:	144	23	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	-	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	2	-	-	2	-

3. Part VIII of the Act

Eleven outworkers were known to be employed in the District. They were all employed on the making of paper firework cases.

4. The District Council is mainly concerned with the enforcement of the law relating to sanitary conveniences at Factories in which mechanical power is utilised, although general powers are provided under the Public Health Acts and Food and Drugs Acts to deal with certain conditions at Factories, and in relation to infectious disease.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No formal action was taken during the year. The Ross Organic Fertiliser case was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936.

DESTRUCTION OF PESTS

(a) Rats and Mice

The Council employs one Rodent Operator who is provided with a small van and the necessary equipment. A lock-up store is provided for poisons and bait.

Mr. W. Carr, the Council's Rodent Operator retired after 18 years service in August, and he was replaced by Mr. A. McKay.

The Council is charged with the duty of ensuring that owners and occupiers keep their land free of rats and mice. Whilst free treatment or advice was given at domestic premises, a charge of 14/- per hour was made at 40 business and 29 agricultural premises.

488 separate treatments were carried out and 1986 visits were made during the year.

(b) Other Pests

The refuse tips were treated regularly with insecticide against fly and cricket infestations, and private premises were occasionally treated for cockroach, flea, ant and silverfish infestations.

Seventy-eight wasps nests were also destroyed.

G.S. SENNITT,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

